

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicant amends the application and seeks reconsideration thereof. In this response, Applicant amends Claim 1 and cancels Claim 2. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 3-12 are pending.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Patent Office rejects Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al. (US 6563260) (Yamamoto). Applicant amends independent Claim 1 to overcome the rejection. However, Applicant respectfully traverses as to dependent Claims 3-12.

In order to anticipate a claim, the relied upon reference must disclose every limitation of the claim. Among other limitations, amended independent Claim 1 recites a vacuum florescent display comprising a substrate opposing front glass, a phosphor film form on a surface of front glass, an electron-emitting portion mounted on said substrate to oppose said phosphor film and having an electron-emitting surface corresponding to the display pattern, and an insulating support member formed on substrate having partitions for electron extracting electrodes and dividing the electron-emitting surface of electron-emitting portion into a plurality of regions, wherein the partitions are made of a material from which large number of secondary electrons than that of bombarded electrons are emitted. Applicant's specification discloses that by forming the insulator side walls in one segment between the grids and cathodes with the material from which a large number of secondary electrons are omitted, the potential on the surface of the insulator in a segment is made to become almost the same potential of a grid which covers the segment. Therefore, the principle of the present invention is effective only on the insulator side walls between the grids and the cathodes in a segment. According to the present invention, it is possible to greatly increase the luminance and prevent luminance nonuniformity of the segment display portion.

In making the rejection, the Patent Office relies on Yamamoto et al. to show a vacuum florescent display with a front glass, a substrate opposing the front glass member, a phosphor film, an electron-emitting portion mounted on the substrate to oppose the phosphor film and having an

electron-emitting surface corresponding to the display pattern, an electron extraction electrode arranged in the vacuum space between the emitting portion and phosphor film, spaced apart from the emitting portion by a predetermined distance and in insulating support member formed on the substrate. However, there is no disclosure or teaching by Yamamoto that the insulating layer corresponding to "the partition" utilizes a material which emits a larger number of secondary electrons than that of the bombarded electrons. Therefore, while Yamamoto eliminates the occurrence of unevenness in brightness, without a material which emits a larger number of secondary electrons than that of the bombarded electrons, which is an element of claim 1 in the present invention, Yamamoto cannot achieve the greater increase in brightness made possible by Applicant's invention. A further advantage of the present invention is that the ON/OFF control is sufficient to provide high luminance and uniform light emission. Whereas, in a configuration like Yamamoto's, the insulator sidewall between the grid and the cathode has to include a material with a low secondary electron emission coefficient so that an adjacent pixel is not affected. Thus, the cited text and accompanying figures fail to teach or suggest that the insulating layer corresponding to "the partition" consists of a material which emits a larger number of secondary electrons than that of the bombarded electrons

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of independent Claim 1. Claims 3-12 depend from Claim 1. Therefore, the rejected dependent claims are not anticipated at least for the same reasons as independent claim 1.

CONCLUSION

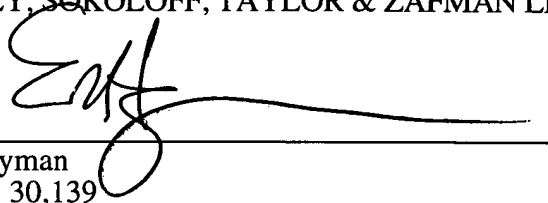
In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending (1) are in proper form, (2) are neither obvious nor anticipated by the relied upon art of record, and (3) are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 4/5, 2004


Eric S. Hyman
Reg. No. 30,139

12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 5, 2004.


Lillian E. Rodriguez

April 5, 2004